New Books.

Sir Edward Thomason's Memoirs during Half a Century. 2 vols. 8vo. 1845. Longman and Co.

"The *toy-shop*," as it was called by Burke, or rather, as it should be termed, the *manufacturing repository of Europe, Birmingham*, is much indebted to the enterprising, persevering, and talented author of the above work, for its present high character; and it may also be said that Great Britain and Europe have been largely benefited by the many and various works of art and science, which have been produced at his fine establishment, and dispersed throughout our own and foreign countries. For nearly half a century the name of Thomason has been celebrated throughout Europe and America, and his show-rooms have attracted and gratified nearly every stranger of note and taste who visited Birmingham during that period. Hence we find them to be subjects of comment and panegyric in many works published in Germany, Italy, France, and the United States. The writer of this brief notice went over the whole at two distinct times, the one remote from the other, and can never forget the impressions made on his mind, both at the first and second visit, by the interesting processes of manufacture exhibited, and also by the rich presents which had been bestowed on the proprietor by monarchs, nobles, and private individuals. Delineations and descriptions of some of these objects constitute the staple article of the volumes before us, which are certainly calculated, as the author observes, "to arouse the active emulation and ambition, of the young and rising manufacturers of the great commercial town of Birmingham."

The following passage from the preface will intimate to the reader the nature of the work, and some idea of its author:—"In the line of manufactures, in which the author was engaged for upwards of forty years, and which was confined to the highest class of the metallic arts, he is animated with the hope, that he has succeeded in many inventions calculated to reflect some credit on the inventor, and in which opinion he conceives himself borne out, by his having been honoured with the order of knighthood from his own sovereign, as well as having been honoured with more than thirty distinguished tokens of approbation from foreign potentates, of decorative orders of knighthood, gold medals of merit, diamond rings, diamond snuff-boxes, and other foreign specimens of art, for which gratifying compliments he begs to avail himself of a line here to express his everlasting gratitude. The author filled, for a period of twenty years, for eight foreign governments, the honourable appointment of vice-consul for the town of Birmingham, which regularly introduced him to foreigners of the highest distinction—to princes, nobles, ambassadors, professors, &c.; thereby laying a foundation for a correspondence somewhat unique, and which may be found useful and instructive to the rising manufactures of his native town."

The work contains copies of many of the letters from the illustrious individuals here referred to, and many other royal and noble personages, with fac-similes of their signatures. The two volumes embrace a narrative of the inventions and productions of the author; particularly his well known series of historical, scientific, and scriptural medals; and the events described extend from the year 1795, when he was apprenticed to Boulton and Co., of Soho, to the present year. His father appears to have retired from business before he came of age, and amassed a considerable fortune by the manufacture of buckles, then not only a fashionable, but universally-worn article. He states that his parent made, "one thousand" pairs of buckles per diem, when in full work." He invented one pattern, called "the silver penny" by which he cleared above 1,000*l.* Since that time, Birmingham has made rapid advances, not only in extent and population, but in the quality and variety of its vast manufactories. The improvements in science, the enterprise and the practical talent of its inhabitants, with the competition and rivalry which stimulated their exertion, have jointly combined to produce these effects, and to render the town justly famed throughout the world.

To Sir Edward Thomason, as we have already said, may be fairly ascribed no small portion of its fame. His active and ardent spirit led him to make many experiments, to invent and speculate on many novelties, and by arresting the attention of the most wealthy and influential personages of Europe, to induce them to visit his museum, and to purchase many of its costly and novel manufactured goods. The demand for the productions of Birmingham thus produced, gave them a high character and distinction in public marts; and these volumes will afford a lasting explanation of the fact, and of the author's share in producing it. Amongst the medals designed and struck by Sir Edward, were one of the Town Hall, and another of King Edward's School: by the latter it appears, that Mr. Barry intended to crown the centre with a lofty, perforated spire, in imitation of the splendid Town Halls of Belgium and Germany.

ARCHITECTURAL AND COLLATERAL FOREIGN WORKS, LATELY PUBLISHED.

FRENCH WORKS.

Botta, Découvertes.—Letters on the Discoveries at Khorsabad, near Ninive. Paris. 8vo. with 55 plates, 12*s.*

Batissier, L., Histoire.—History of Monumental Art in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Paris. 8vo.

Annales.—Annals of Public Works in Belgium, concerning Art of Construction, Ways of Communication, and Mineral Industry. 3 vols. 8vo., with atlas in fol. Bruxelles, each vol. 12*s.* [This country is deficient in any work of the kind, although of the greatest importance.]

Andat, M., Termosyphon.—Termosyphon or the Water-oven, for Heating all sorts of Glass-houses, Churches, Theatres, &c. 4to.

Adhemar, J., Traite.—Treatise on the Cutting of Stone. Paris. 8vo., atlas in 4to. Third Edition. 1*l.* 7*s.*

Bouchariat, J. L., Theorie.—Theory of Cubes and Surfaces of second order. Paris. 8vo., 9*s.* Third Edition.

Brogniart, Traité.—Treatise of Ceramic Art, or the Potteries considered theoretically and practically. Paris. 8vo., and atlas in 4to., 2 vols., 1*l.* 16*s.*

Chenavard, A., Album.—Album of the Ornamentist in all guises and styles. Paris. 72 plates, 3*l.*

Combes, Ch., Traité.—Treatise theoretic and practical, on the Wheels of Reaction, or the Tube-wheels, called *Turbines*. Paris. 4to., plates, 10*s.*

Coriolis, Traité.—Treatise of Mechanics of Solid Bodies, and the calcul on the force of Engines: considerations on the use of Motors and their Evolution. Paris. 4to., plates, 15*s.* Second Edition.

D'Harcourt, R., Eclairage.—Gas-lighting, the Making of Gas, the Building of Furnaces, Laying of Tubes, and the Phenomena of Light developed. Paris. 8vo., plates, 7*s.* 6*d.*

D'Arcet, Payen, Brun, Dr. Ure, Dictionnaire.—Dictionary of French and Foreign Industry. Paris. 8vo., 3 vols. Double columns.

Burat and *Challamel*, Exposition.—Exhibition of French Industry in 1844. Paris. 4to., 2 vols., plates, 3*l.* (An important work.)

Toussaint, C. J., Manuel.—Hand-book of the Cutting of stones. Paris. 18mo., atlas, 5*s.*

Pounclet, J. V., Traite.—Treatise of Industrial Mechanics, the different methods for determining and calculating Moving Forces, &c. Paris. 8vo., 18*s.* New Edition.

Reech, Rapport.—Report on the Engines of *Brandon*. Paris. 4to., 15*s.* [*Official.*]

Valerius, B., Traité.—Treatise on the Theory and Practice of the Fabrication of Iron, especially in Belgium. Paris. 8vo., atlas, fol., 1*l.* 10*s.*

Genaro-Perez, L'Espagne.—Spain in its Arts and Monuments. Paris. fol. In parts, each 16*s.*

Chenot, A., Chaudieres.—Boilers of Steam-engines to be Electric Apparatus, and means for generating steam without any danger. Paris. 8vo. 6*s.*

Claudel, J., Formulas.—Formulas, Tables, and Practical Hints—a memory-help for Architects, Engineers, &c. Paris. 8vo., 12*s.*

Colignon, Ch., Concours.—The Co-operation of Canals and Railways. Paris. 8vo., 6*s.* Second Edition.

Gouin and *Lechatellier*, Recherches.—Experimental Researches on Locomotive Engines. Paris. 8vo., 6*s.*

Idzkowski, A., Compositions.—Compositions of Architecture, containing Buildings of all kinds, such as Town-halls, Churches, Bridges, Garden-houses, Monuments, &c. Engraved by *Beaupre*, Dulos, &c. Paris. Fol. To form 20 parts, each 15*s.*

Schmit, Manuel.—The Architect's Handbook of Religious Monuments—or the Practical Application of Christian Archæology to the Construction, Decoration, Conservation, and Restoration of Churches. Paris. 8vo., 7*s.*

Lacroix and *Hogard*, Manuel.—New complete Handbook of Surveying, containing Instructions in that art, and a Treatise on the Art of Fixing Boundaries. Paris. 18mo., plates, 2*s.* 6*d.* New Edition.

Schmitz, Julien, and *Loreatz*, Manuel.—Handbook of the Civil Engineer. Paris. 18mo., and atlas of plates. 2 vols., 10*s.* 6*d.*

Gayffier, Manuel.—Handbook of Bridges and Roads, Aqueducts, &c. Paris. 18mo., 2 vols., New Edition, 7*s.*

Paulin, C., Manuel.—Handbook for Fire Brigades, or Theory of the Extinction of Fires. Paris. 18mo., atlas of plates, 7*s.* 6*d.* New Edition.*

Morin, A., Aide-memoire.—Memory-help of Practical Mechanics, for the Use of Civil Engineers, &c. Brussels. 8vo., 7*s.* Fourth Edition.

Normand, Paris.—Modern Paris, third part, the Country Seats and Rural Buildings of the Environs of Paris. Paris. 4to., each livraison 2*s.*

Clepault, S. Ch., Traite.—Treatise on Dangerous Insalubrious, or Disagreeable Establishments. Paris 8vo., 7*s.*

Champollion, Monuments.—Monuments of Egypt and Nubia. Paris. Fol. text, each part 12*s.* 6*d.* [*Official.*]

Bulletin.—Annals of Society of the History of France, a Review of National Antiquities. Years 1834 to 1836. Paris. 4to., 4 vols., 1*l.* 5*s.* (Most of the other years out of print.)

Garard, Ch., Galleries.—The Historical Galleries of Versailles. Paris. Fol., 9 vols., plates comprising about 1,800 subjects of sculpture, &c, 35*l.*

Isabelle, C. E., Edifices.—Circular Edifices and Domes arranged in Chronological Order, their Construction and Ornaments. Paris. Fol., 20 parts, each 10*s.* Published under the auspices of Government (!!)

Lasterie, F., Histoire.—History of Glass Painting from its Monuments in France. Paris. Fol., coloured plates. Each part, 10*s.*

Bedarride, M., Maçonnerie.—On the Order of Freemasons of Isräim, from its Creation to the Present Time. Paris. 8vo., 2 vols., 1*l.*

Jourdain and *Dural*, Stalles.—The Stalls of the Cathedral of Amiens. Amiens. 8vo., 14*s.*

* The above handbooks form, what is called in France the sterling collection of *Manuels-Roserts*.

Correspondence.

THE EGG-SHAPED SEWER.

SIR,—I beg to inform your correspondent, "E. E. E.," that the egg-shaped sewer has been adopted by the City of London Commission for some years. The large sewer in Walbrook was built in that manner some twenty-five years since.—I am, Sir, &c.,

City. A. B. C.

Miscellanea.

COST OF RAILWAY VIADUCTS.—From an account of a viaduct over the Union Canal, on the Edinburgh and Glasgow line, which appeared in a recent number of the *Railway Chronicle*, we obtain the following particulars. This viaduct was erected under difficult conditions; and a canal, at all times an obstacle of troublesome nature to railways, was made particularly so in this case, on account of the small rise the engineer had to work upon for a base span. The viaduct consists of four arches, and is in length 305 feet. The average height is somewhere about 41 feet. The larger arch has a span of 130 feet, with a rise of 24 feet 6 inches, being about one-fifth of the span. The thickness of the arch stones at the spring is 3 feet, diminishing to 3½ feet at the crown. The next large arch is 63 feet in span, with a rise also of 24 feet 6 inches, being nearly one-third of the spring; the thickness of the arch stones at spring being 3 feet, and at the crown 2 feet 6 inches. The two small intervening arches are 20 feet in span, and semicircular; the arch stones of the central one being 2 feet 6 inches thick, while those of the outer one are 1 foot 6 inches. The whole of the viaduct was made of ashlar, except the backing of the wing walls, and cost 6*l.* per lineal foot forward. This large arch has stood well: a splinter or two at the face of the stones in the spring, are merely superficial defects, which have not affected the stability of the structure.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting was held at the society's rooms on Wednesday, when a paper was read by E. A. Freeman, B.A., secretary, on "The Development of Roman and Gothic Architecture, with their moral and symbolical teaching." In the latter part Mr. Freeman contended that there were only two real divisions of Gothic architecture—the *early*, including the geometrical decorated, and the *continuous*, including flowing—decorated, and the perpendicular. Mr. F. concluded by a high eulogium on the latter style, which he contended was the nearest approach to perfection. Mr. Patterson and Mr. Parkins protested against the opinions advocated by Mr. Freeman being taken as those of a majority of the members of the society.

PAPIER MACHE.—This material is being used for the purpose of panelling first class railway carriages.

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